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~~TOP SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
GENERAL.

1. Denmark desires to present defense problems to US - UK Ambassador Marvel in Copenhagen. It is learned that the final meeting of the recent Scandinavian defense discussions called for a presentation to the US and UK of security problems special to Scandinavia. Marvel indicates that Denmark considers such a "day in court" a prerequisite to its decision on participation in the North Atlantic Pact discussions. Marvel believes that Denmark should be given a hearing in order to strengthen the Danish Prime Minister's hand in securing his Government's approval for Danish participation in the Atlantic Pact discussions. He also suggests that if an invitation to these discussions is presented to Norway, Denmark should be given a simultaneous invitation.

S-TS

Ireland to reject Atlantic Pact membership--Irish Minister for External Affairs MacRidge has informed US Minister Garrett that the Irish Government can never enter any defense pact in which the UK is associated so long as Northern Ireland remains under British control. MacRidge added, however, that in replying to the US aide memoire concerning Irish participation he "proposed to keep the door open so as not to make the answer entirely negative."

2. Spaak sees little military progress in Western Union-- Belgian Premier Spaak has expressed to US Ambassador Kirk in Brussels his deep concern over the lack of progress toward increasing the actual military strength of the Western Union. Spaak remarked that in existing defense arrangements there seemed to be "too many generals and no armies whatever." In particular, Spaak expressed his dissatisfaction with: (a) the failure to allocate to the five Western Union powers individual responsibility for the manufacture and supply of weapons; and (b) the lack of coordination among Western Union military staffs.

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EUROPE

3. AUSTRIA: In responding to a new Austrian treaty...US Minister Erhard expresses the view that even though the US may doubt the serious desire of the USSR to conclude an Austrian treaty, it is to the interest of the western powers to demonstrate on every possible occasion that they genuinely want a settlement which would safeguard Austrian independence. Erhard feels that the dangers inherent in the withdrawal of occupation forces can be reduced to a minimum if the treaty settles Soviet claims to German assets and establishes adequate Austrian security forces. He concludes that Soviet opposition to the possibility of Austria's close affiliation with the western security system, which he believes can alone guarantee Austria's long-term security, may be the most serious obstacle to a treaty.

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